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Stuart, Crow Post Feature Wins At Saugus

by Lyn Pherigo

Saugus, CA, July 15...Mike Stuart posted his first hobby stock victory and Rick Crow scored his second straight figure 8 triumph in Friday night hobby stock events at Saugus Speedway. Other winners included Brian Kelley in the oval B main, Pat Dennison in foreign stock and Jeff Holmes in jalopies.

Shanon Flavin paced the early laps of the 20 lap hobby stock oval A main with Willie Melvin moving up into second and Stuart moving into third by lap five. Melvin moved past Flavin on lap nine with Stuart also moving past Flavin into second. A lap later, Stuart moved by Melvin for the lead. The only yellow flag of the race came out on lap 12 for the spun car of Mike Johannes. Under the yellow, Melvin stalled in turn two. After being restarted, Melvin continued but at the rear of the field. Fast qualifier Terry Custer took over in second place for the restart. After the restart, Stuart and Custer started pulling away as they battled for the lead. Lawrence Leis made his way into third on lap 15 but had no chance of catching the leaders. Stuart held off Custer to the finish for his first win.

Jim Wahl took over the lead just before a red flag came out on lap two of the 20 lap hobby stock oval B main. The red flag was caused when Holmes spun sideways and was t-boned by Bill Poperszky with Tracy Nunes running into the rear end of Poperszky. Of the three only Holmes was able to continue. On lap six, Ray Duff moved into second and set out after Wahl. On lap 13, while racing for the lead, Duff spun Wahl going into turn three. Duff was promptly blackflagged and forced to pit, denying him his ninth straight jalopy victory. Kelley took over as the leader with Neil Conrad just behind. Conrad battled past Kelley on lap 18 only to lose the lead a lap later when he got sideways and Kelley went back into the lead. Kelley held off Conrad in a final single lap dash to the finish after a yellow flag.

Kelley moved out into the lead at the start of the figure 8 main, however, on lap three, both Kusch and Crow passed Kelley who fell to third. Kusch held off Crow until lap seven when Crow made his way by Kusch on his way to his second straight victory.

SUMMARY

Hobby Stock

Fast Time-Terry Custer, 20.43

Dash-Custer, Jim Gunnarson, Sue Pittinato.

Semi-Brian Kelley, Neil Conrad, Ron Watkins, Ray Maxon, Scott Wade, Lisa Owens, Jason Woodruff, Jim Wahl, Joe Barreras Sr., Tracey Nunes.

Main-Mike Stuart, Custer, Lawrence Leis, James Kusch, Pittinato, Shannon Flavin, Thad Friday, Willie Melvin, Sally Gasparovich, Peter DeLuise, Mike Johannes, Rick Crow, Tommy Astone.

Figure 8

Dash-Jim Gunnarson, James Kusch, Jay Slaughter.

Main-Rick Crow, Kusch, Scott Wade, Brian Kelley, Thad Friday, Ray Duff, Neil Conrad, Mike Johannes, Ed Walton.